In the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule, said nucleic acid molecule capable of specifically hybridizing under conditions of 6.0 X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by a wash of 2.0 X SSC at 50°C to a second nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complement thereof.

2. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a microsatellite sequence.

3. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a region having a single nucleotide polymorphism.

4. (Currently amended) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises ~~a nucleic acid molecule having~~ a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complement thereof.

5. (Original) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a bacterial ORI site.

6. (Previously presented) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule further comprises a promoter or partial promoter region.

7. (Original) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 6, wherein said promoter region comprises a CAAT *cis* element and a TATA *cis* element and an additional *cis* element.

8-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule according to claim 4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule ~~comprises a nucleic acid molecule consisting~~ consists of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complement thereof.

21. (Previously presented) A substantially purified first nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment nucleic acid sequence having from about 50 to about 100 nucleotide residues; wherein said fragment nucleic acid sequence exhibits complete complementarity to a second nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.

22. (Previously presented) The substantially purified first nucleic acid molecule according to claim 21, wherein said second nucleic acid molecule consists of a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a complement thereof.

23. (Previously presented) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule having between 90% and 100% sequence identity with a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.

24. (Currently amended) The substantially purified nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~24~~ 23, wherein said substantially purified nucleic acid molecule has between 99% and 100% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.